

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

-Lee Holloway -

Chairman of the Board

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CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON REMAINING \$91.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL TRANSIT FUNDS

County Executive's inability to compromise costs Milwaukee County more than \$9 million

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman released the following statement in response to the federal government's decision to allocate the remaining \$91.5 million in federal funding for Milwaukee transportation projects:

"The decision to give Milwaukee County 40% of these unspent federal transportation dollars resolves a long-standing dispute between the County Executive and the Mayor. It also prevents any further erosion of these dollars. I thank Senator Herb Kohl, Representative David Obey and Representative Gwen Moore for including funding for the Milwaukee County Transit System in the federal omnibus bill. I have a passion for mass transit, and I strongly encourage the County Executive to accept this federal funding and work with the County Board to modernize and upgrade the transit system in Milwaukee County.

"I am, however, disappointed that the County Executive's inability to negotiate a compromise reduced the County's share by more than \$9 million. Last year, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett proposed splitting the funds between the City and County. Unfortunately, the County Executive did not agree to that suggestion, which would have been a better deal for Milwaukee County. It is widely known that Milwaukee County desperately needs funding to stabilize transit operations and replace aging buses. This federal funding, combined with the stimulus funds Milwaukee County will receive for mass transit, will help us begin to address our deferred capital needs."